

# BIG CYPRESS

## WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

2007-08

## REGULATIONS SUMMARY AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE  
AND RECREATIONAL AREA  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
An Equal Opportunity Agency  
MyFWC.com

This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and other recreational use on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area. **Regulations that are new or differ substantially from last year are shown in bold print.** Area users should familiarize themselves with all regulations. For exact wording of the wildlife laws and regulations, see the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's wildlife code, on file with the Secretary of State and state libraries. This brochure, the Florida Hunting Regulations handbook, and quota permit worksheets should provide the information necessary for you to plan your hunting activities. These publications are available from any Commission office, county tax collector and at [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com).

Persons using wildlife management areas are required to have appropriate licenses, permits and stamps. The following persons are exempt from all license and permit requirements (except for quota permits when listed as "no exemptions" and the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp [federal duck stamp]): Florida residents who are 65 years of age or older; residents who possess a Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate; residents in the U.S. Armed Forces, not stationed in Florida, while home on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders; and children under 16 years of age. Children under 16 years of age are exempt from the federal duck stamp.

Hunting, trapping and fishing licenses, and management area, archery, muzzleloading gun, wild turkey and state waterfowl permits may be purchased from county tax collectors, license agents, the Internet at [MyFWC.com/license](http://MyFWC.com/license) or by telephone at 1-888-486-8356. A no-cost Migratory Bird Permit is available when purchasing a hunting license. Any waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must possess a federal duck stamp; available at most post offices or at [duckstamp.com](http://duckstamp.com).

### QUOTA PERMIT INFORMATION:

Archery (Deep Lake Unit) - 200, no-cost, quota permits for each of 3 hunts.

Muzzleloading Gun (Bear Island Unit; first 9 days) - 200, no-cost, quota permits.

Muzzleloading Gun (Bear Island Unit; after the first 9 days) - 200, no-cost, daily quota permits are available first-come, first-served at the check station each day of the season.

General Gun - 200 (Bear Island Unit), 1000 (Stairsteps Unit), 250 (Loop Unit), 300 (Corn Dance Unit), 500 (Turner River Unit), no-cost, quota permits for each of 3 hunts.

General Gun (Bear Island Unit; after Nov. 26) - 200, no-cost, daily quota permits are available first-come, first-served at the check station each day of the season.

Permit applications: Hunters must submit electronic applications for quota and special-opportunity permits at a license agent, county tax collector's office or online at [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com). Most quota and special opportunity permits are issued during a random drawing, which includes all applications submitted during the times and dates listed below. Any remaining permits are issued first-come, first-served.

A worksheet with a list of available permits may be obtained 1 - 2 weeks before each application period from FWC offices, tax collectors, license agents and online at [MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com). Application for random drawings begins 10:00 a.m. eastern time on the first day of the application period and ends midnight eastern time on the last day. Archery/Muzzleloading Gun and General Gun quota permit applications may be submitted June 1 - 11.

Transfer of permits: Quota permits are transferable. Quota permits issued to exempt hunters are transferable only to another person with the same type of exemption, except

permits marked "exempt senior" may be transferred to a youth younger than 16 years of age. The sale or purchase of any quota permit is prohibited.

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) PERMIT:

NOTICE: Vehicle operators must be state licensed (regular or learner's permit) and obtain an ORV operator's permit from the NPS for all vehicles, including airboats, used off-road on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area. Vehicle operators are responsible for knowing National Park Service regulations that apply to ORV use in the preserve. Please contact the Big Cypress National Preserve ORV office, 33100 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, FL 34141, 239-695-1205, <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/orv-use.htm>, regarding vehicle use regulations. The National Park Service ORV permit is available at the Oasis Visitor Center.

### GENERAL AREA REGULATIONS:

All general laws and regulations relating to wild animal life or freshwater aquatic life shall apply unless specifically exempted for this area. Hunting or the taking of wildlife or fish on this area shall be allowed only during the open seasons, and in accordance with the following regulations:

1. Any person hunting deer or accompanying another person hunting deer shall wear at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent-orange material as an outer garment, above the waistline. This is not required during an archery-only season.
2. Taking of spotted fawn, swimming deer or roasted turkey is prohibited. Species legal to take are listed under each season.
3. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this area.
4. Driving a metal object into any tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven, is prohibited.
5. No person shall cut, damage, or remove any natural, man-made or cultural resource without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
6. Taking or attempting to take any game with the aid of live decoys, recorded game calls or sounds, set guns, artificial light, net, trap, snare, drug or poison is prohibited.
7. The wanton and willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
8. Hunting, fishing or trapping is prohibited on any portion of the area posted as "CLOSED" to those activities.
9. People, dogs, vehicles and other recreational equipment are prohibited in areas posted as "Closed to Public Access" by FWC administrative action.
10. Taking or herding wildlife from any motorized vehicle, aircraft or boat which is under power is prohibited, until power and movement from that power, has ceased.
11. Most game may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset (see exceptions under each season).
12. The release of any animal is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
13. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey on the area.
14. The planting or introduction of any non-native plant is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
15. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.
16. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse, or in any way litter in the area.
17. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands.
18. A Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Law Enforcement Officer may search any camp, vehicle or boat, in accordance with law.

- Construction of buildings or other structures is prohibited, unless permitted by the National Park Service.
- Cutting or damaging fences used to contain animals (including cattle fences) is a felony of the third degree.
- No person shall remove plants, rocks, minerals, animal life, other natural resources or parts thereof without written authorization from the Executive Director of the FWC and a written permit from the National Park Service.

#### **PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:**

- Open to public access year-round.
- All vehicles and airboats used off-road on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area shall have a National Park Service ORV permit. (See ORV Permit, page 1).
- To access the Bear Island Unit, all persons shall enter and exit the area at the designated entrance on the north end of Turner River Road (Bear Island check station) or at the other check station north of I-75.
- Vehicle use on Eleven-mile Road or the Florida Trail is prohibited. Vehicles may cross Eleven-mile Road at marked designated crossing points (maps are available at the Visitor Center).
- On Jetport Road, only vehicles with pneumatic tires may be operated and parked vehicles are prohibited.
- Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.
- No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of any wildlife management area that has been designated as closed to vehicular traffic.
- All airboats must be equipped with an orange flag at least 10 inches wide and 12 inches long and displayed at a minimum height of 10 feet above the bottom of the vessel.
- Public access inside any fenced portion of the Jetport property is prohibited.
- ORV use is prohibited between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

#### **HUNTERS AND CHECK STATIONS:**

- Hunters shall check in and out at the same designated check station when entering or exiting the area, and check all game taken.
- Hunters using the Bear Island Unit shall enter and exit only at the designated entrance at the north end of Turner River Road or designated entrances along I-75. The I-75 entrances are walk-in only and equipped with self-service check stations.
- Hunters shall obtain a check station pass when entering the area and retain it in their possession while hunting.
- Deer, wild hog and turkey may be divided or consumed in the field but each portion shall be tagged with the license number of the person taking the game and be readily traceable to the portion bearing sex identification.
- It is important that game stay intact as much as possible and be brought to the check station as soon as possible. Important biological data are obtained from the following animals and parts: deer (head, heart, kidney, liver), hog (head) and turkey (wings and tail). If game is processed in the field, the above items should be brought to the check station along with the meat.
- All deer jawbones shall be saved and brought to the check station.
- Hunting equipment and dogs may be taken onto the WMA after 8 a.m. the day before the opening of a season and shall be removed by 6 p.m. one day after the end of the season BUT SEE #6 UNDER THE DOGS SECTION; #4 & #16 UNDER THE NPS SECTION.

#### **GUNS:**

- In the Deep Lake Unit, only muzzleloading guns and archery equipment may be used. Muzzleloading guns may only be used in this unit during the Small Game and Spring Turkey seasons.
- Possession of a gun is allowed only during periods when hunting with a gun is permitted. See #21 under the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RULES AND INFORMATION section.
- Hunting with a gun and light is prohibited.
- Muzzleloading guns used for taking deer must be .40 caliber or larger, if firing a single bullet, or be 20 gauge or larger if firing two or more balls.
- Possession of a loaded, capped or primed firearm, or discharge of a firearm on, from or across any campsite or check station area is prohibited.
- Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.
- No person shall have a gun under his control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- For taking non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles, pistols, longbows (including compound and recurve bows), crossbows (during the general gun season or by permit only) or falconry may be used.
- For taking migratory game, only shotguns, bow and arrow (not crossbows), and falconry may be used. Shotguns shall not be larger than 10 gauge and shall be incapable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
- Firearms using rimfire or non-expanding, full metal jacket (military ball) ammunition are prohibited for taking deer.
- Fully automatic or silencer-equipped firearms, centerfire semi-automatic rifles having a magazine capable of holding more than five rounds, explosive or drug-injecting devices and setguns are prohibited.
- Hunting or the display or use of a gun in a manner capable of taking wildlife on or from the rights-of-way of Burns Road; County Roads 839, 841, 837; State Roads 84 (I-75) or 94; or U.S. 41 is prohibited.

#### **DOGS:**

- Hunting deer or wild hog with dogs is prohibited.
- Hunting with dogs is prohibited, except bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers.
- All dogs are prohibited in the Loop Unit.
- No person shall allow any dog to pursue or molest any wildlife during any period in which the taking of wildlife by the use of dogs is prohibited.
- Leashed dogs may not be used for trailing wounded game.
- The possession of dogs (other than bird dogs and waterfowl retrievers for hunting purposes) is prohibited except as authorized by National Park Service regulations.

#### **CAMPING:**

- Camping is permitted in accordance with the regulations of the National Park Service. See the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RULES AND INFORMATION section for additional camping rules.
- Camping is permitted at designated campsites on all units.
- Primitive camping is not limited to designated campsites except in the Bear Island Unit.
- Camping on Bear Island Unit is permitted only at designated campsites by the use of tents, trailers and self-propelled camping vehicles.
- Draining or dumping refuse or waste from any trailer or other vehicle is prohibited.
- Fires other than campfires at designated campsites or back country campsites are prohibited. All fire must be extinguished prior to leaving a campsite.

#### **BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:**

- Deer - Daily limit 1, annual limit 2 (all seasons combined).
- Wild hog - Daily limit 1, annual limit 2 (all seasons combined).
- Turkey - Daily limit 1, annual limit 2, possession limit 2.
- Gray squirrel, quail and rabbit - Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.
- Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk and nutria - No bag limits.
- Migratory birds - See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

#### **ARCHERY:**

September 1-30 (all Units).

November 10 through January 1 (Deep Lake Unit only)

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting Deep Lake Unit Nov. 10-18, 19-25 or Dec. 22 - Jan. 1), check station pass, hunting license, management area permit, archery permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog with shoulder height of 15 inches or more, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Archery Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

- Hunting with bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers is permitted except in the Loop Unit.
- Possession of firearms or crossbows is prohibited, except that centerfire shotguns are permitted for hunting migratory birds when one or more species are legal to take in all units except Deep Lake Unit (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).
- Taking ducks is prohibited in the Bear Island and Deep Lake Units during the early duck season.

#### **MUZZLELOADING GUN:**

October 6 - 21 (except Deep Lake Unit).

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting Bear Island Unit Oct. 6-14) or daily quota permit (if hunting Bear Island Unit Oct. 15-21), check station pass, hunting license, management area permit, muzzleloading gun permit and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

Legal to Take - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog with shoulder height of 15 inches or more, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Muzzleloading Gun Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

- Hunting with bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers is permitted except in the Loop Unit.
- Only muzzleloading guns are allowed, except that centerfire shotguns are permitted for hunting migratory birds when one or more species are legal to take (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

#### **GENERAL GUN:**

November 10 through January 1 (except Deep Lake Unit).

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting Nov. 10-18, 19-25 or Dec. 22 - Jan. 1) or daily quota permit (if hunting Bear Island Unit Nov. 26 - Dec. 21), check station pass, hunting license, management area permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog with a shoulder height of 15 inches or more, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the General Gun Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply. Hunting with bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers is permitted except in the Loop Unit.

### **SMALL GAME:**

**January 2 through February 3**

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements – Check station pass, hunting license, management area permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take – Gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Small Game Season – In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting with bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers is permitted except in the Loop Unit.
2. In the Deep Lake Unit, only archery equipment and muzzleloading guns may be used.
3. Possession of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

**TRAPPING:** Prohibited.

### **SPRING TURKEY:**

**March 1 through April 6**

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements – Check station pass, hunting license, management area permit and wild turkey permit.

Legal to Take – Bearded turkey or gobblers.

Regulations Unique to the Spring Turkey Season – In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. In the Deep Lake Unit, only archery equipment and muzzleloading guns may be used.
2. Legal shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.
3. The taking of any other animal is prohibited.

### **MIGRATORY BIRDS:**

Ducks may be hunted during the early duck season in all units except Bear Island and Deep Lake Units. Rails, common moorhens, mourning doves, white-winged doves, snipe, ducks, geese, coots, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species that coincide with the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun or small game season.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements – Quota permit (if hunting during any quota period), hunting license, management area permit, migratory bird permit, and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take – See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

Regulations Unique to Migratory Birds – In addition to these regulations, all General Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting with bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers is permitted except in the Loop Unit.
2. The use of lead shot for taking ducks, geese, and coots is prohibited.
3. Centerfire shotguns are permitted during established area seasons when one or more migratory birds are legal to take, except in the Deep Lake Unit.

### **FISHING AND FROGGING:**

Permitted year-round.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements – Fishing license (not required when frogging).

Legal to Take – See Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.

Regulations Unique to Fishing and Frogging – All General Area Regulations and General Freshwater Fishing Regulations shall apply.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

1. Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975 must have passed a Commission-approved hunter-safety course prior to being issued a hunting license.
2. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission South Region Office at 561-625-5122 (TDD 800-955-8771).

### **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RULES AND INFORMATION:**

This area is a national preserve and Big Cypress National Preserve regulations shall apply. For further information, contact the Big Cypress National Preserve, 33100 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, Florida 34141, 239-695-1205 or <http://www/nps.gov/bicy/>.

1. Time limits apply to camping. Please contact Big Cypress NP for current camping regulations and limitations on the maximum number of days an individual may camp.
2. Backcountry camping in the Bear Island Unit is permitted only at designated campsites: Gator Pit and Pink Jeep Trail sites.
3. Backcountry camping in Zone 4 is permitted as follows: Airboat users must camp in designated campsites only. Those gaining access by foot or non-motorized vessels may camp anywhere as long as the campsite is at least ½ mile from Loop Road and ¼ mile from any designated campsite or airboat trail.
4. Except for Zone 4, during archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun, and spring turkey hunting seasons an individual may camp or leave camping gear unattended for the length of the season in backcountry areas and the designated campsites in Bear Island, Gator Pit and Pink Jeep Trail, provided such equipment / camps are marked with the owner's name, address, and telephone number. Sites / equipment may be occupied after 8 a.m. one day before the opening of the season and must be removed by 6 p.m. one day after the close of that season.
5. Dead wood lying on the ground may be collected as fuel for campfires within the preserve. This wood cannot be removed from the Preserve.
6. Primitive campsites must be located at least 1/2 mile from and out of sight of designated state or county roads.

7. All backcountry users are required to have a backcountry use permit (free).
8. Consumption of alcohol or possession of an open container of alcohol in or on a motor vehicle, including off-road vehicles and airboats, is prohibited.
9. All private property owners in the preserve are required to obtain a burn permit in advance from the Florida Division of Forestry by calling 239-690-3502 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Call Big Cypress Dispatch at 800-788-0511 on the day of the burn to avoid false reports of fire caused by others reporting your smoke.
10. The preserve is closed to the viewing of wildlife with an artificial light, except that artificial lights may be used during frogging activities.
11. It is prohibited to destroy, injure, deface, remove, dig or disturb from their natural state: living or dead wildlife, fish, plants, nonfossilized and fossilized paleontological specimens, cultural or archaeological resources or the parts of each thereof.
12. The taking, feeding or intentional disturbance of wildlife (including snakes and other reptiles) is prohibited except as authorized by specific hunting regulations.
13. Frogging regulations: 1) Commercial frogging is prohibited; 2) Frogs may be taken by gig only; 3) The daily bag limit is one five-gallon bucket per vessel or individual; 4) The possession limit is 18 lbs of dressed frog legs; and 5) Commercial taking of frogs is prohibited. Recreational frogging for personal use is permitted.
14. Fishing in freshwaters must be by hook and line.
15. Fishing is prohibited in the following areas: 1) The canal on the north side of U.S. Highway 41 in front of the Oasis Visitor Center for a distance of 200 yards east and west from a midpoint located directly opposite of the front door of the building. 2) The Turner River Canal from the bridge on U.S. Highway 41 to 1/10 of a mile North.
16. During archery, muzzleloading, general gun, and spring turkey seasons an individual may leave treestands or similar devices unattended for the length of the specific season provided such equipment is marked with the owner's name, address, and telephone number. Individuals may bring this equipment into the preserve after 8 a.m. one day before the opening of the specific season and must be removed by 6 p.m. one day after the close of that season.
17. ORV use is prohibited between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
18. Target practice and random discharge of firearms is prohibited.
19. Concealed weapons are prohibited. State-issued concealed weapons permits are not valid on Preserve lands.
20. Unloaded weapons may be carried in a vehicle when such implements are rendered temporarily inoperable or are packed, cased or stored in a manner that will prevent their ready use.
21. Weapons cannot be discharged from a motor vehicle, including off-road vehicles. A weapon may be discharged from an airboat when the vessel is not under power and is stopped.
22. Possession of a gun is allowed only during periods when hunting with a gun is permitted, the individual is licensed to hunt, possesses all permit for that season, the weapon is appropriate for the specific season and the individual is engaged in or traveling to or from the hunt.

### **COOPERATION REQUESTED:**

*If you see law violators or suspicious activities, contact your nearest Commission regional office or call 1-888-404-FWCC. You may qualify for a cash reward from the Wildlife Alert Reward Association.*

*The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: The Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. The project described in this publication is part of a program funded by federal dollars under the Wildlife Restoration Act. Federal funds pay 20 percent of the cost of the program.*



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# BIG CYPRESS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

565,848 acres

Collier, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties

